

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
(ISO) W

-----116625 191618Z /41

R 291036Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8694
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
MBFR VIENNA 117
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5280

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR SECTION INFO)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR: CONVERSATION WITH GERMAN DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH

REF: NATO 06108

1. SUMMARY: SLOSS MET WITH FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH IN GENEVA JUNE 28 FOR DISCUSSION PRESENT STATUS MBFR. RUTH REITERATED THEIR ESTIMATE (REFTEL) THAT GROUND FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF IN THE NGA WERE APPROXIMATELY 6,000 MEN. HE REITERATED STRONG FRG COMMITMENT TO REDUCTION DISCLAIMER BUT AGREED THAT USE OF DISCLAIMER IN VIENNA COULD NOT BE AUTOMATIC. WHILE STICKING WITH POSITION EXPRESSED PREVIOUS DAY IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL) ON STEP-BY-STEP IMPOSITION OF DATA, RUTH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PROCESS OF LAYING OUT DATA, INCLUDING AIR FORCE DATA, MIGHT NOT BE PROLONGED ONE. END SUMMARY.

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2. RUTH STARTED BY EXPRESSING STRONG DOUBTS THAT DATA DISAGGREGATION WOULD LEAD EAST TO ALTER THEIR FIGURES AND ASKED WHAT WEST SHOULD DO IF WE COULD NOT SHAKE EASTERN POSITION ON DATA. SLOSS SAID FIRST PROBLEM WOULD BE TO GET THE EAST EVEN TO ACCEPT THE APPROACH PROPOSED BY THE GERMANS, AND THIS WOULD BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT IF WE COULD NOT INDICATE TO THE EAST

THAT ALL DATA, INCLUDING AIR FORCE DATA, WOULD BE TABLED SIMULTANEOUSLY OR AT LEAST WITHIN A RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD. SLOSS ADDED THAT EVEN IF THE EAST DID NOT ALTER ITS FIGURES, THE DISAGGREGATION OF EASTERN DATA WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE WEST BECAUSE IT WOULD INDICATE MORE PRECISELY WHERE OUR FIGURES AND EAST FIGURES DIFFERED. THIS WOULD HAVE A BEARING ON FUTURE WESTERN TACTICS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHETHER WE MIGHT CONCENTRATE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON SOVIET FORCES OR ON COMBAT FORCES. RUTH INDICATED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONCEPT OF COMBAT COMMON CEILING.

3. ON THE ISSUE OF PHASING OF THE DATA DISCUSSION RUTH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WEST WOULD HAVE TO GIVE SOME INDICATION TO THE EAST AS TO HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO COMPLETE THE STEP-BY -STEP PROCESS AND PROVIDE THE TOTAL BREAKOUT OF GROUND AND AIR FORCES. RUTH SAID THAT THE WEST WOULD MERELY HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE EASTERN FIGURES PROVIDED IN EACH STEP BEFORE WE WENT ON THE THE NEXT STEP, AND THAT THIS MIGHT REQUIRE ONLY A FEW SESSIONS BEFORE ALL THE DATA WAS LAID OUT. HE DID NOT ENVISION A COMPLETE DISCUSSION OF THE DATA AT EACH STEP IN THE PROCESS. HE DID REITERATE POINT MADE IN BRUSSELS THAT FRG WOULD NOT INSIST ON DIVISIONAL DATA PRIOR TO "ALL OTHER" CATEGORY. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR AS TO WHAT REQUIREMENTS WOULD HAVE TO
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BE FULFILLED AT EACH STEP BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT STEP. COMMENT: THIS IS WORTH FURTHER EXPLORATION IN BONN, BRUSSELS AND VIENNA AS IT APPEARS TO BE A POINT WHICH THE FRG HAS NOT FULLY THOUGHT THROUGH.

4. ON THE REDUCTION DISCLAIMER RUTH SAID THAT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT THIS BE INCLUDED IN THE GUIDANCE AND THAT THE AD HOC GROUP BE AUTHORIZED TO USE THE DISCLAIMER IF THIS BECAME NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY. HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN DEALING WITH POSSIBLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRITICISM OF THE FRG POSITION. SLOSS POINTED OUT THAT THERE MIGHT WELL BE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE AD HOC GROUP AS TO WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE WESTERN POSITION JUST AS THERE HAD BEEN DIFFERENCES IN THE SPC OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS. SLOSS SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IF WE DID AGREE TO THE DISCLAIMER AND TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY TO USE IT TO THE AHG THAT WE WOULD WISH TO USE IT IN VIENNA ONLY IF THIS BECAME ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, AND THAT ITS USE CERTAINLY COULD

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
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R 291036Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8695
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
MBFR VIENNA 118
USMISSION NATO

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NOT BE CONSIDERED AUTOMATIC. RUTH SAID THAT HE UNDER-STOOD THIS. SLOSS ADDED THAT THERE WERE SOME IN THE USG WHO WERE CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE EMBRACING THE COLLECTIVITY PRINCIPLE AND WILL USE IT TO ARGUE AGAINST ANY NATIONAL REDUCTION OF SOVIET FORCES. THIS WOULD MAKE AN MBFR AGREEMENT OF QUESTIONABLE VALUE AND DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY. WE WANTED TO AVOID GIVING THE SOVIETS ANY EXCUSE TO ARGUE AGAINST US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS AND CEILINGS. RUTH REPLIED THAT HE SAW THE POINT, BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME WE WOULD HAVE TO INSIST THE WITHDRAWAL OF STATIONED FORCES WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER THAN THE REDUCTION OF INDIGENOUS FORCES.

5. RUTH REITERATED THE ESTIMATE HE HAD GIVEN AT NATO ON MONDAY THAT GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN INTERNATIONAL STAFFS IN THE NGA AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 6,000. HE SAID THAT TOTAL GROUND AND AIR WAS ABOUT 10,000 AND THERE WAS A LARGE NUMBER OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AT AFCENT. HE MADE CLEAR THAT IN THE GERMAN PROPOSAL THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF FIGURE WOULD RELATE TO GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL ONLY.

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6. RUTH AGREED WITH SLOSS' COMMENT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME TO CONVINCE THE EAST TO ACCEPT THE GERMAN APPROACH, IF THEY EVER DID. RUTH HOPED THAT IT COULD BE EXPLORED WITH THE EAST DURING THE CURRENT ROUND BUT THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT WE COULD ACTUALLY GET THE DATA TABLED IN THE CURRENT ROUND. AS INDICATED ABOVE, RUTH WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT EVEN IF THE EAST EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED THE FRG APPROACH, THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO ANY REVISION OF THEIR FIGURES. HE BELIEVES THE WEST MUST BEGIN TO CONSIDER WHAT WE DO IF THE EAST DOES NOT ALTER ITS FIGURES. AT THE SAME TIME HE AGREED WITH SLOSS THAT MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WITHOUT EVENTUAL AGREEMENT ON DATA WOULD BE MEANINGLESS AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY POLITICALLY. SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

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